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DEPARTMENT OF RED CROSS NURSING

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THE DELANO RED CROSS NURSES

ANNOUNCEMENT by the special committee on the Delano Nurse Memorial of the American Red Cross of the selection of the first two "Delano Red Cross Nurses," brings the materialization of one of the life-long dreams of the late Jane A. Delano. It was because of her conviction that public health nursing would be the means by which adverse conditions, physical and social would be so leavened as to effect a complete transformation of the life and outlook of peoples in the backwaters of civilization that she made provision in her will for the maintenance of such service in such localities. Stella Fuller, who has been chosen for the work in Alaska, and Bertha R. Steeves, who will serve the needs of the islanders off the coast of Maine, will be true pioneers of public health nursing, blazing new trails in virgin territory for the feet of those to whom they minister to follow in later years. To this end Miss Delano bequeathed \$25,000 to the American Red Cross, as a trust fund,

the principal of said fund to be kept intact perpetually, and the income arising therefrom to be used for the support of one or more visiting nurses under the supervision of that organization, in loving memory of my father and mother, such nurses to be known as the "Delano Red Cross Nurses."

Supplementary to this fund Miss Delano also provided that the income

of her textbook, "Home Hygiene and Care of the Sick," later revised and brought up to date by Anne Hervey Strong, be also applied to the support of these nurses. At the time the will was drawn Miss Delano had little conception of the amount of revenues that would accrue from the sale,—albeit moderately priced,—of this book which is the authorized textbook for one of the most popular courses of nursing instruction for laymen in the country. The fact that during the year 1920 there were awarded to pupils completing this course 92,093 certificates, while countless hundreds more received the instruction, but did not care to take the examinations, is an eloquent testimonial to the practical value of the course. Hence the income available for the support of Delano Red Cross Nurses is at the present time more than enough for the support of the "one or two" which were originally stipulated in the terms of the bequest. Moreover, the need today is as great for the type of nursing which Miss Delano envisioned as in those early years of her professional career when she came to close grips with life in the rough, in her capacity as nurse in the fields of the Copper Queen Mining Company, in Bisbee, Arizona. Here, sharing the same hardships and primitive conditions as those faced by the wives and children of the miners, Miss Delano truly approximated the importance in life of a knowledge

of simple nursing procedures, proper sanitation, and hygiene of home and community. Just such localities are still to be found throughout the United States today, notwithstanding the strides made within the past few years in public health nursing. In the black belt of the far south; in the tide-water lowlands of the same section; among the mountaineers of the Cumberlands, and in remote islands, cut off by their isolation from the conveniences and professional services available to those on the mainland, are to be found scores of settlements where the Delano Red Cross Nurses will find a hearty welcome and intelligent co-operation. For many of these groups, notably the islanders off the coast of Maine, where Miss Steeves is to begin her service, and among the southern mountains, are of the best and purest American stock; sturdy, self-reliant, God-fearing and keen-brained. Only their native habitat, remote from the main thoroughfares of civilization and progress, denying them an equal chance with their more fortunate neighbors to obtain the best educational and cultural advantages.

A close-up of the country in which Miss Fuller will carry on her duties in Alaska is provided in the following extracts from the correspondence of Ebba Djupe, a public health nurse who is the field representative of the American Red Cross in Alaska:

Juneau, Alaska, July 9, 1922.

I am fast realizing that I am in harness.
* * * It was found that the work can be given a small beginning in Kake, (pronounce it "Cake"). I have as yet to learn what is the meaning of this kind of "Cake." To say that it is appetizing, after reading the statistics, would be putting it mildly in the eyes of a public health nurse.

Juneau, July 11.

I have been in Alaska less than a week and have just been seeing more things to do and what is needed to be done. I am so thrilled with the work as I see it now. I am most reluctant in going away from here. Wish I could be divided into eleven slices,—one for each chapter. Must hurry, as I am leaving this afternoon for two conferences, one with the school board, and one with Governor Bone. There are so many nurses, married and otherwise, that I think the next convention might easily be held in Alaska and there would be a full attendance. All the missing nurses who are enrolled and have not given an account of themselves are here and are married! They are the society of Alaska and their husbands hold the most prominent places in the government and business affairs. In brief, it is the style in Alaska to marry nurses. Some of the interesting tales which I have heard about the romances of nurses include that of Mrs. Karl Theil, who was Mary Coleman and who is enrolled in the Red Cross Nursing Service of the Northwestern Division. She has been in the Government service for seven years and came 700 miles over the cold and snow on dog sleds to marry Karl Theil, Secretary of Alaska. She is none the worse for her experience in the interior and told how it took her seventeen days to come. The cabins or road houses at which she stopped were anything but desirable for the ordinary wants of the highly developed tastes of Americans.

July 12.

I am writing this letter on the Steamer "Northwestern." Was called about two this morning. Had just fallen asleep, as I did not return from an entertainment until after midnight. Saw the most beautiful sunset about 10:30 p. m. It seemed about seven in the evening to me. I am told that people never go to bed in the summer, as it is too light. It is a beautiful dawn. The snow-capped mountains are reflected in the water, so tinted by the sunrise that they mirror all the colors of the rainbow. The captain just stopped at the door and said that there was time enough to work any day, but that such scenery as this is not an everyday matter. I agree with him, but I am away behind on all my reports

as I had so little time in Juneau to do any writing. I am going to love it all, I know. * * * I know we can do so much Red Cross work. I am almost certain that Juneau will have a nurse before the year is over, as it seems that is the sentiment of those who have a knowledge of conditions. Dr. Devigue is a member of the school board and is keen for a public health nurse. He has convinced the school board and has been given the privilege of hiring one for an hour each day. His idea as to what she could do in one hour was vague, but he said it was a beginning. A school board meeting was called and this fund (\$300) will not be used until I return to Juneau, when a demonstration of school work will be given.

Writing to Miss Baldwin, Director of Instruction in Home Hygiene and Care of the Sick in the Pacific Division, under date of July 19, Miss Djupe states:

Your service is to have the honor of being the first service which will be given consideration since I have been in Alaska and it was only a piece of good luck that has started the ball rolling so soon. When the steamship stopped at the little fishing village of Kake, we observed an attractive young woman on the dock who just did not belong. We were told that there were only two white people in the village and when we asked if she were the teacher, she replied that she had come up for the summer with her husband during the canning season. Later I was told that she was an ex-army nurse, also enrolled in the Red Cross Nursing Service. She was Bertha Nipper and is now married and is Mrs. Burt Reusse. She stated that they would remain in the village about two months. Kake is a village of 300 natives, no hospital facilities, no doctor or nurses except a native practical nurse who cares for people only when there is a confinement or acute illness. Mrs. Reusse stated that there was great need for education and teaching of hygiene. As I read the evening paper in Juneau, I found some interesting vital statistics which have a very interesting bearing on the situation as it really exists. Mrs. Reusse stated that she was most anxious to do something while in the village to assist these poor people and it was suggested to her

that she might teach the natives the modified course in Home Hygiene and Care of the Sick. She said that she would love to do that, especially as the midwife could be taught so much. Today I have talked with Mr. Berhends, Chairman of the Juneau Chapter, under whose jurisdiction the little village of Kake belongs. He expressed his approval and stated that he felt certain the other members of the board would voice the same sentiment.

RETENTION OF NEW YORK OFFICE

Some misunderstanding seems still to exist regarding the fact that notwithstanding the consolidation of the Lake and Atlantic Divisions of the American Red Cross into one Washington Division, with headquarters at Washington, D. C., office room is still to be maintained in New York City. For the present this office will be at 44 East 23rd Street, the former headquarters of the old Atlantic Division, but as an adjunct to National headquarters and largely for the convenience of the nursing service. New York's central position, not only as the largest city in America, but as a transportation junction and a metropolis where are concentrated almost all of the professional and industrial exchanges, makes it desirable for the Red Cross Nursing Service to keep a point of live contact in this city. As previously explained, this office, with Florence M. Johnson acting as an assistant to the National Director, will serve as an outpost and quasi-clearing house where nursing personnel may report and where information and assistance may be obtained as to disabled nurses, their hospitalization, etc. Miss Johnson will strive to give to all the maximum of helpfulness and all nurses in the neighborhood of New York or passing through will always find a welcome in her office.

SCHOLARSHIPS OPEN TO RED CROSS EX-WAR NURSES

Announcement by Major Stimson, superintendent of the Army Nurse Corps, of the ruling that the LaVerne Noyes scholarships are open to ex-service women as well as to ex-service men will be of interest to such Red Cross Nurses as served in the Army or Navy Nurse Corps during the war. During his lifetime, LaVerne Noyes, a millionaire inventor of Illinois, gave to the University of Chicago a trust fund of \$2,500,000 to establish the LaVerne Noyes Foundation to assist soldiers and sailors who served during the World War and their descendants "who were without means" to secure a college education at that institution.

Mr. Noyes died in 1918. In his will he provided another trust fund as an expression of his gratitude and to reward those who ventured the supreme sacrifice of life for this country and for mankind in this war for the liberty of the world, and also to keep alive for generations to come the spirit of unselfish, patriotic devotion which these men displayed and without which no free government can long endure.

These scholarships were to be given in universities and colleges selected by the trustees. "Without regard to sex, race, religion or politics and be confined to citizens of the United States who served in the Army or Navy since April 6, 1917, and their descendants." Such scholarships have already been awarded in seventeen Illinois colleges, in three in Iowa, one in Ohio, and one in Massachusetts.

RETURNING PERSONNEL

In consonance with the Red Cross programme which henceforth will be al-

most entirely concentrated upon domestic operations, the nursing personnel in Europe has been steadily withdrawn. Since May 1 more than fifty of our nurses have been released from European service, the number remaining on duty on September 1, under the American Red Cross, being fifteen, with an additional nurse still on the Red Cross pay roll in the American Hospital in Constantinople. Six Red Cross nurses are still on duty in that institution. The same is true in the case of thirty Red Cross nurses assigned to the Near East Relief and five with the Serbian Child Welfare Association. In Greece, three have been taken over by the Grecian Patriotic League. Changes have also taken place in the personnel assigned to our Island Possessions. Elizabeth M. Wright returned to the United States from the Dominican Republic in July for an extended leave of absence. Mary E. Shaneman and Agnes E. Meyer, who were also assigned to that country, also returned during the summer. Anna Marie Hansberry returned from Haiti in August.

With the following exceptions, the nurses still on duty in Europe are retained for the purpose of supervising the work which has now been taken over by native personnel or who are connected with the schools of nursing. The exceptions include Mrs. Elsbeth H. Vaughan, who is acting as general director of nursing in the Baltic States, Poland and Czechoslovakia; Sophie C. Nelson, who fills a similar position with respect to the Balkans. Rachel Torrance is stationed in Czechoslovakia and Rose Schaub in Hungary.

(To be continued)